

# ASTORIA

## A Ring Formed to Gobble a Whole Country.

### ANNEXING NORTHERN MEXICO.

Gen. Grant, Tom Scott, and Ben Butler in the Plot.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Important movements are on foot in this country and Europe looking to the establishment of a magnificent empire in the north and west of Mexico. A number of the greatest capitalists in the world have for some time been negotiating with the Mexican authorities either for the absolute cession of the States of Chihuahua, Sonora, and Lower California, or for the granting of extraordinary privileges. The active spirits in this great enterprise are, of course, Americans, and the central genius of the combination is Col. Thomas A. Scott, the railroad king of the West. It will doubtless be remembered that several years since a company of politicians and capitalists obtained very extraordinary privileges from the Mexican Government in Lower California, and that considerable exertions were made to induce emigration to that country. Some of the principal men engaged in that scheme were Gen. B. F. Butler, S. L. M. Barlow, Col. Thos. A. Scott, John W. Foster, and others. The enterprise was quite elaborately written up in certain of the New York papers, and at the time it promised well.

**CAUSE OF FAILURE.**  
A colony was, I believe, established at Magdalena Bay under the leadership of Drake McKay, but the troublous state of affairs in Mexico, and the uncertain attitude of our Government at that time caused the company to suspend operations. This at least was the general way in which the active managers of the enterprise then accounted for the temporary failure of their effort at colonization. There are other reasons, however, given by persons who ought to be acquainted with the facts, and who are not so easily misled as McKay's colony was. They are as follows: That McKay's colony was not so well situated as McKay's colony was. They are as follows: That McKay's colony was not so well situated as McKay's colony was.

**BIG THING.**  
However this may have been, it is certain that a much grander enterprise is about to be undertaken by a combination of capitalists and politicians. This enterprise includes the States of Chihuahua, Sonora, and Lower California, and it is a much grander enterprise than the one which McKay's colony was. It is a much grander enterprise than the one which McKay's colony was.

**GLOWING PROSPECTS.**  
But from what I have been able to learn here, I should judge that the enterprise is a much grander one than the one which McKay's colony was. It is a much grander enterprise than the one which McKay's colony was.

**THE PURCHASE OF ARMS.**  
The United States Government, and it was undoubtedly correct, earnestly disapproved of the purchase of arms for the purpose of establishing a colony in Mexico. It was undoubtedly correct, earnestly disapproved of the purchase of arms for the purpose of establishing a colony in Mexico.

**THE INSULT TO MEXICO.**  
President Grant's latest Annexation Scheme has been a great insult to Mexico. It has been a great insult to Mexico.

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Some idea of the magnitude of this scheme will be obtained from the following brief statement of the extent and resources of these three great Mexican States. Chihuahua contains nearly 1,000 square leagues and a population of 100,000 souls. The eastern portion of the State consists of high table lands, having an elevation from 4,500 to 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. That near the Rio Grande is barren and sterile, but the remainder is in broad level lands, slightly undulating, with but little shrubbery, and covered with luxuriant pasturage. The climate is temperate, and the soil is fertile. The State is well watered by the Rio Grande, and there are several small rivers and streams. The State is well watered by the Rio Grande, and there are several small rivers and streams.

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